the I.O.C. that it had indulged in restrictive unfair trade practices by supplying less quantity to consumers by way of hot loading of LDO;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the management of I.O.C. in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Petroleum Ministry directed the I.O.C. to settle such claims on commercial consideration in a letter dated the 18th September, 1989;

(d) whether the I.O.C. complied with these directions; and

(e) if so, how many claims from the consumers were settled and the amount of compensation paid before 1989 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Two Notices dated 31st August, 1992 and 21st December, 1992 were received by IOC from the MRTP Commission regarding the complaint made by the National Council for Civil Liberties on hot-loading of LDO.

(b) IOC have sent detailed reply to the allegations. The matter is still before the MRTP Commission.

(c) to (e) The matter was examined in consultation with the IOC and it has been decided by the Government to allow TVA on LDO with effect from 25-9-92. As TVA has been allowed from the date of order by the Government, i.e., 25-9-92, no prior claims have been considered.

Allocation of the Central Road Fund

*155. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what action has since been taken to implement the 1988 resolution adopted by both Houses of Parliament, to raise the allocation to the Central Road Fund and to release the fund money to the States accordingly, and

(b) what are the reasons for delay and difficulties if any, faced in implementing the said resolution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) No final decision on the implementation of New Resolution on augmentation of Central Road Fund adopted by Parliament on 13-5-88, has been taken so far. Due to budgetary constraints, the matter is still under consideration of the Government.

Linking of Chandigarh with Sirsa-Hissar by Rail

*156. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that due to non availability of train service between Uklana and Narwana Chandigarh remains cut off and is not linked with Sirsa and Hissar;

(b) if so, by when Government propose to link Chandigarh with Sirsa-Hissar;

(c) the number of super-fast trains to be run on this Route; and

(d) the financial gain likely to accrue to Government by directly linking Chandigarh with West-South Haryana ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. However, Uklana and

Narwana are already connected by BG route via Jakhal (74 kms.). Chandigarh & Hissar are linked by BG route viz Narwana-Jakhal.

(b) Conversion of Rewari-Hissar-Bhatinda MG line to BG has been taken up and Bhatinda-Hissar (157 kms) is targetted for completion during 93-94. On completion of conversion of the section, Hissar and Sirsa will also be linked by BG route via Bhatinda and Rajpura as well.

(c) It will depend on the offering of traffic on completion of conversion work.

(d) This can be determined only after a survey is taken up for which there is no proposal at present.

Import of Crude and Petroleum Products

*157, SHRI MD. SALIM :
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have earmarked over 6 billion dollars for the import of crude and petroleum products to meet internal demand;

(b) if so, whether this step would not put pressure on the scarce foreign exchange reserve; and

(c) in what manner Government would manage this position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Since the Unification of the Exchange Rate with effect from 1-3-1993 there is no mechanism of earmarking of foreign exchange for import of any item including for import of crude and petroleum products. The Indian Oil Corporation which is the main canalising agency for imports of both crude and petroleum products is expected to obtain necessary foreign exchange under the Modified Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (MLERMS). The foreign exchange is to be obtained from authorised dealer at a market determined rate.

As the requirement of foreign exchange for import of crude and petroleum products is dependent on various factors like the prevailing prices of crude and petroleum products; prevailing exchange parity of the rupee with the dollar and other factors, the likely impact on the foreign exchange reserves is not feasible to be estimated at this stage.

*158 [*Transferred to 14th May*, 1993]

Issue of bogus Railway season tickets

*159 SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Railway officials and staff at Thane/Kalyan Railway Station on Central Railway were involved in issuance of bogus season tickets;

(b) what are the details of staff and action taken against them;

(c) what is the extent of loss incurred by Railway due to this scandal; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the official enquiring into this affair has been missing and is believed to have been killed by the gang involved in the scandal?